

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6388

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 2287

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PDIP, HU

SUBJ: NEW STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

REF: BUDAPEST 2234

1. RELIABLE SOURCE IN FOREIGN MINISTRY TOLD EMBOFF JULY 7 THAT DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PAL RACZ WILL SOON BE NAMED STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS REPLACING JOZSEF MARJAI (SEE REFTEL) WHO IS SLATED TO BECOME AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW.

2. THE SON OF A WELL-KNOWN COMMUNIST PEASANT LEADER IN TRANSYLVANIA BEFORE WWII, RACZ WAS APPOINTED TO HIS PRESENT POSITION IN DECEMBER 1973. SINCE HE IS BEING ELEVATED OVER HEADS OF OTHER DEPUTY MINISTERS WITH MANY MORE YEARS SENIORITY, WE ASSUME THAT HIS CLOSE CONNECTIONS WITH PARTY LEADERS AND POLICE WERE CRUCIAL IN HIS SELECTION. A VETERAN DIPLOMAT AT 48, RACZ HAS SERVED IN THE U.S., FRANCE, SWITZERLAND, YUGOSLAVIA AND UAR. IMMEDIATELY BEFORE BEING NAMED DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER IN 1973. HE SERVED FOR THREE YEARS AS DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR. IN 1957 RACZ WAS DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA BY USG. HE SERVED FOR EIGHT MONTHS IN 1970 IN HIS PRESENT CAPACITY.

3. SINCE BECOMING DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS RACZ HAS BEEN INCONTACT WITH AMERICAN DIPLOMATS IN BUDAPEST. ON ALL OCCASIONS HE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY CORDIAL, COURTEOUS BUT FRANK. HE TOLD
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AMBASSADOR PEDERSEN IN 1974 THAT HIS EXPULSION FROM

THE U.S. ON ESPIONAGE CHARGES HAD ASSISTED HIS CAREER
IN FOREIGN MINISTRY. ALTHOUGH RACZ HAS UNTIL RECENTLY
BEEN IN CHARGE OF HUNGARY'S RELATIONS WITH ASIAN
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND CUBA, HE APPEARS TO BE SOMEWHAT
MORE MODERATE IN HIS VIEWS TOWARD NON-COMMUNIST WORLD
THAN PRESENT STATE SECRETARY MARJAI.
MUDD

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